

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for enabling remote networking functionality by port proxying, the method comprising:
  - 5                   executing a process requiring a networking protocol;
  - intercepting communications from the process to a port assigned to support the network protocol; and
  - redirecting the communications over an open port.
2. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of executing the process comprises executing an application program.
3. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of executing the process comprises executing an application program residing on a remote storage asset.
4. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the process utilizes SMB networking.
5. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of intercepting communications from the process comprises intercepting communications for port 139.
6. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of intercepting communications from the process comprises addressing the communications to an address assigned for local loop-back.

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7. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of redirecting the communications over the open port comprises encapsulating the communications in an HTTP packet.
8. A method as described in Claim 7, wherein the communications are located in a post data portion of the HTTP packet.
9. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the open port is an HTTP port.
10. A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the open port is a FTP port.
11. A system for remote networking by port proxy, the system comprising:  
an application program executing on a computer which is utilizing the SMB protocol to access a remote storage asset; and  
a port proxy program that intercepts communications from the program to a port assigned to support the SMB protocol and redirects the communications over an open port.
12. A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the open port is an HTTP port.
13. A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the open port is an FTP port..
14. A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the SMB port is port 139.
15. A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the communications are

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addressed for local loop-back.

16. A system as described in Claim 11, wherein port proxy program encapsulates the communications in an HTTP packet.

17. A system as described in Claim 16, wherein the communications are  
5 located in a post data portion of the HTTP packet.

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